Development of Historical Places Related to Ramayana

†1893. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than 50 places are being developed in Sri Lanka which are related to the story of Ram, the Ramayana;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 20 per cent of the tourists visiting these places in Sri Lanka are from India;

(c) whether there is any plan to make the places in India which are related to the Ramayana travel worthy for tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has no information in this regard.

(c) to (e) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for development of tourist infrastructure on the basis of project proposals received from them as per guideliens subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

National mission on monuments and antiquities

1894. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many monuments and antiquities have been documented under the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities;

(b) on what basis such selection of monuments for documentation is made;

(c) whether Government is considering to extend the coverage of this Mission to more States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) For documentation of antiquities, National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has, in the first instance, requested all museums under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India, State Governments and Union Territory administrations to initiate work on their respective collections.

For documentation, 3667 centrally protected and 4251 unprotected monuments/sites have been taken up in the first phase. Their selection is based on the availability of published material.

(c) and (d) Initially it was proposed to carry out the activities of National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities in a phased manner. However, it has since been decided to initiate work simultaneously in all the States and Union Territories in the interest of rapid implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.